

# CHRISTMAS GAMES

## FOR YOUNG and OLD



Christmas is the supreme season of happiness for children. Their brains are filled with the beautiful imaginations of the good deeds of old Santa Claus. Many of them receive their first strong impressions in discriminating between good and wrong, and the rewards for the former and the punishments for the latter.

The festive character of Christmas being undeniable, nothing can or could be more pleasing to the children and more strictly in accordance with the spirit of the day than a house party.

The day should begin for the child

with the finding of his stockings filled with presents, which on the previous evening were hung on the bed post. This pretty custom should be encouraged until the wonderful travels and kindnesses of Santa Claus are looked upon with doubt by the recipient of his bounty.

The children should gather about the Christmas tree as presents are distributed. Of course if the father wants to impersonate Santa Claus so much the better. His appearance will be appreciated by the youngest and cannot be resented by the more experienced ones of 12 or 13 years.

Here are some suggestions in games.

conceals the head of each of the players beneath and only the eyes are visible through the eye holes. The object of the game is for the rest of the players to guess the ownership of the eyes as they see them by holding a candle close to them.

### "Blow Out the Candle."

About as popular as this game is "Blow Out the Candle." One of the party is sent from the room. He or she returns blindfolded. A candle burns in the room, around which the other merry-makers are gathered. The blindfolded player must advance to the candle and blow it out.

It looks easy, but it isn't. The thickness of the blind is so dense that the light of the candle cannot be seen through it and in most cases the puff which should extinguish the candle is directed in the most absurd places.

### "The Barrel Pie."

This is excellent fun and can afford many surprises for the merry-makers. Fill a barrel with all manner of little parcels, containing candy, small dolls, whistles, boxes, empty or filled with any article.

Let the little children plunge their hands into the mysterious depths. When some girl wins a whistle or a boy a doll or piece of coal, the situation is bound to produce much laughter.

### "Blind Man's Buff."

If there is a person who has never played this game, he will undoubtedly seek to conceal the fact. The old can join with the young, and what could cause more merriment than to see uncle bump his knee against the table or mistake Aunt Jane for grandma?

### "The Bobbing Apple."

This is delight pure and simple. Hang an apple from the ceiling and offer a small prize to the one who is able to grasp it with the teeth without fingering it in any way. Let each child try in turn.

### "Musical Chair."

This is considered great by the young, especially if there is a good lively player at the piano. Arrange the chairs in a row, having one less than the number of players. When the music suddenly stops each will make an effort to seat himself, but one must be disappointed.

### "Charades."

The description of charades should have been left for the last, because it affords a true climax. Lucky are the children who can go rummaging and have in store for the party a whole lot of old clothes with which to impersonate the familiar home figures. This game requires an intelligent person to oversee it, and the children should enter into it with much seriousness, which gives an added charm to it. It is great fun to see a little fellow come in wearing an old hat and shawl of his mamma's or a little girl clothed in a large vest with a silk hat pulled down over her ears.

### "A Topsy-Turvy Concert."

In this some of the children play while others watch. A curtain must be stretched about an impromptu stage, which conceals the bodies of the little folks except their heads and necks. The hands and arms of each of the players should be covered with stockings and shoes. When the children are arranged back of the curtain close together a Christmas song should be sung. At the conclusion of each verse the singers stoop down all together very quickly and each lowering the head elevates the arms above the curtain. All the singers thus appear to be standing on their heads. They keep time with the music with their feet, or rather their hands, and this when done simultaneously never fails to amuse.

Planning for the older guests on Christmas day should be guided by the aim to have them forget that they are old. To say the least, it is bad form to do and set in such a manner as to continually remind some old grandma that she is nearing the end

of her course, when she might be doing her level best to forget it. With a sympathetic person assisting the little folks, there should be plenty of fun.

### "Whose Are the Eyes?"

"Whose Are the Eyes?" which has attained great popularity, duly suggests the Vehmgericht, the secret tribunal of old Westphalia, in which the judges sit closely covered and with their faces invisible. The game, however, is all mirth. Two of those that take part in it are seated side by side. Over the head of each is placed an outstretched newspaper. In this paper two holes are cut. The paper

### Games Are Old as Guests.

Of course, many of the older guests will indulge in cards, chess or checkers, while others will find their greatest pleasure in assisting the children. But for those that really want to play games in which all can join try these and don't be surprised if one of your guests remarks:

"Why, I played that game when I was a child."

Rather expect it—for very little in the celebration of Christmas is new.

### Game of Plum Pudding.

This game has been played for years in this country under many names, but as near as can be learned the above name is proper.

A round piece of wood or a tin pan is provided and titled "Plum Pudding." The company proceed to choose partners by fixing upon two generals, Gen. Kettle and Gen. Pot.

These officers then commence choosing alternately soldiers from among the company, performing the ceremony of conferring title with some unique speech. Kluses might do in place of words when the soldier is a woman.

The titles should be confined to names familiar in the culinary art, as Lieut. Gen. Duck or Carver, Maj. Gen. Muffin or Fork, Col. Coffee Pot or Carrot, Maj. Corkscrew or Ladle, and Private Potato or Peach, and so forth until all the players have been chosen.

The game begins with Gen. Kettle, who takes the "Plum Pudding" (the plate) between his finger and thumb, ready for spinning on the table or floor, and commences his narrative thus:

"As I was sitting on the fire this morning, sputtering with rage at having no enemy to boil, who should come along in a bag and string but old Plum Pudding. The moment he caught sight of me he ran off, I after him. When turning around a corner I saw Maj. Corkscrew—"

At this word Gen. Kettle spins the "Plum Pudding," which it is Maj. Corkscrew's duty to keep up and continue the story until he mentions "Plum Pudding" and the assumed name of another player.

Forfeits are exigible for letting the "Plum Pudding" fall, for speaking of yourself as a human being and for failing to continue the story properly, as by falling in the narrative by calling an enemy by a wrong title.

When enough forfeits have been collected penalties are then imposed by the two generals, the performance of which is required before the forfeit is returned.

### COLORING CHRISTMAS CANDIES.

Harmless Substances That Are Easily Secured and Not Expensive.

**Red.**—Take 20 grains of cochineal and 15 grains of cream of tartar; finely powdered; add to them a piece of alum the size of a cherry stone and boil them in a wineglass of water in an earthen vessel for half an hour. Strain through muslin and keep in a tightly corked vial.

**Yellow.**—Take a little saffron, put it into an earthen vessel with a very small quantity of cold water, and let it steep until the infusion becomes a bright yellow color. Then strain it.

**Green.**—Take fresh spinach or beet leaves and pound them in a mortar. If to be used immediately, take off the green froth as it rises and mix it with the article to be colored. To bottle, take the juice, when about a teaspoonful has been pressed out, add to it a piece of alum the size of a pea and let it come to a boil. Strain and bottle.

**White.**—Blanch some almonds, scald them in cold water and pound to a smooth paste, adding at intervals a little rose water. Thick cream will also produce a white color.

### Kept Him Busy.

Patience—And you say her "steady" was at her house seeing the old year out with her?

Patrice—Yes; and he told her when the clock struck 12 he'd give her a kiss for each stroke he heard of the clock.

"Wasn't he stingy?"

"Oh, no; you see there were 12 clocks in the surrounding rooms, and no two kept the same time."—Yonkers Statesman.

Teacher—Willie, do you know anything about the burial of Sir John Moore?

Willie—Yes, ma'am; I know it was not at Christmas time.

"How do you know that?"

"Because, don't you remember it says: 'Not a drum was heard'?"—Yonkers Statesman.

### MAKES CARPETS LIKE NEW.

Preparation Can Be Made at Home and Easily Applied.

The following method of cleaning carpets has been thoroughly tested and was secured from a professional source: First have the carpet cleaned in the usual way and tucked down on the floor where it is to remain permanently and it is ready for the cleaning process. Take one and a half pounds of the best white laundry soap, one-half a pound of white-oak bark, three-fourths of a pound of borax, one-fourth of a pound of fuller's earth, one-half a pint of good alcohol, one-half a pint of ammonia, one-half an ounce of chloroform and four gallons of water. Tie up the bark in a piece of thin material and boil in two gallons of water for four hours. Keep boiling water at hand to replace that lost by evaporation. Now remove the bag, add the soap, shaved fine, the borax and the fuller's earth and let simmer until all are dissolved. Then add the other two gallons of water, which should be boiling hot, and when partly cool add the alcohol, ammonia and chloroform. This quantity will clean 30 yards of carpet.

To clean, dip out a cupful of the preparation, put it on the carpet, spread it and scrub with an ordinary bristle scrubbing brush. The spot scrubbed will be covered with lather, but the carpet will not be wet through. When all the dirt has been removed, scrape the lather up into a heap and take it up with a scraper, which can be had of any house-furnishing store, or a shingle with a smooth edge will answer very well. When the lather has been removed go over the carpet with a sponge wrung out of clean water and dry with a cloth.

### SCIENCE OF DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

Necessary Knowledge If Home Is to Be Made Happy.

Did you ever ask yourself the meaning of the term domestic economy? Most likely you never did. Notwithstanding the growing popularity of this branch of study, there is no subject the name and nature of which is so generally misunderstood.

Some young women think it means "cookery and laundry lessons;" others thing "scrapping and saving" would more fitly define it, while dim ideas of so-called mental duties and domestic drudgery float through the brains of others.

But these are "small nibblings at the outer bark" of the truth, which is that domestic economy is a saving knowledge, a knowledge which relates to the intelligence and cultivated management of everything connected with the home.

It is the science of the home, and pre-eminently a woman's science.

It is the woman's work to make the house into a home. Every woman ought to know how to do all things necessary to make a home happy, says Woman's Life.

The husband earns the money, but the principal part of it has to be spent by the wife. Hence it is very important that all girls should learn domestic economy. But please remember that domestic economy is one of those things that cannot be learned from books alone.

### Dutch Peach Cake.

Drain the liquor from a can of peaches, and, if not already stoned, stone them, cut into strips or eighths, and set in the colander to drain well while you make the cake.

Sift with a pint of flour two teaspoonfuls of baking powder and a half-teaspoonful of salt. Into this stir a beaten egg and a teaspoonful of milk. Grease a loaf tin and put in the dough, then press the pieces of peaches into the top of the loaf, laying them close together. Sprinkle with bits of butter and dust all with sugar, adding but a little of this, as the peaches are already sweetened. Bake until done, and serve with whipped cream or alone as cake.

### Rice Pudding with Currants.

Take half a pound of rice, half a pound of currants. Wash the rice, tie it in a cloth, allowing room for it to swell, and put it into a saucepan of cold water. Let it boil for an hour; then take it up, untie the cloth, stir in the currants, and tie it up again tolerably tight, and put it back into the water for the remainder of the time. Boil for another hour, or rather longer, and serve with sweet sauce. For rice custards or puddings prepared according to any different formula, simply add the currants.

### Guilty Conscience.

"Let a man be only half or three-quarters square, as most of us are, and he fears less a villain's wagers with a galling gun pounder at the 'dure this' touch iv a ruyporter's hand on 'dureb ell,' says 'Mr. Dooley' on 'The Power of the Press' in The American Magazine.

### Influence of Books.

A book, more than speech, more than deeds even, crows, according to what it contains, the good or the bad.



In no other city in America is Christmas celebrated in so many different ways as in Washington, for at Washington are gathered the official representatives of every land—Christian, as well as pagan—and in the embassies and legations the holiday is celebrated according to the custom in vogue in the countries having representatives there.

So it is that the celebration there is international as well as national in character. Quaint customs, indeed, prevail in the diplomatic corps. In one house you will find Christians commemorating the birth of the Saviour, while in a house across the street a pagan brother from the orient is celebrating an entirely different day, for an entirely different occasion.

Pursuant to a long-established custom, ambassadors and minister plenipotentiaries entertain their official staffs at Christmas, inviting, also, such other friends as they may desire to have visit the legation at that time.

Probably the ambassador from Italy and his wife are the most gracious hosts of any of the foreigners at Washington, and their guests at Christmas time are always welcomed around the Yule log, which burns brightly in the open fireplace. A large urn full of gifts is placed on a table and visitors have great sport getting their presents from out the vast pile.

Germany is the home of the Christmas tree and Kris Kringle. It is, therefore, appropriate that at the Kaiser's embassy the most cosmopolitan Christmas should be celebrated—the custom of the "Faderland" blended with those of the Baroness von Sternberg's "old Kentucky Home."

The family of Señor Casaus, the brilliant Mexican ambassador at Washington, is a happy one, and all of its members join heartily in their native way of celebrating the "Poada." At half past seven on Christmas eve they assemble in a room

ornamented with representations of saints and angels, the Virgin Mary and Joseph, the wise men from the east, shepherds, sheep and oxen. The presents are previously placed on a great earthen swan in the center of the room, and as the young people fall in line and march around the swan, each gives it a blow with a small stick until the bird is broken. Then the fun begins—a scramble for the gifts ensues, followed by games and the usual merrymaking.

An American hostess presides over the embassy where floats the tri-colored flag, and joins her welcome with that of her distinguished husband, the French ambassador. Here, again, we find the Yule log burning, and in its glow the Bethlehem manger is represented. Built on a table in the living room, it remains for two weeks of "Noel," a gentle reminder of the sacred meaning of Christmas.

At the Russian embassy, a few blocks distant from the French, Mlle. Rosen, the school girl daughter of the czar's ambassador, presides over the Christmas celebration.

Dreams had on that night are supposed to come to pass, and from the Russian standpoint, unluckily is the girl who has no dream to relate while preparing her morning toilet. Early service is attended in the embassy chapel (there is no Greek church in Washington), and then fortune telling games are in order.

The children of the Peruvian legation at Washington will celebrate their Christmas around a "Grotto of the Nativity" in miniature, instead of around the proverbial Christmas tree. This grotto will be surrounded by pots of nourishers of various sizes, with growing plants of different grains, while the gifts will be arranged in and around the whole.

These presents are always selected with the greatest care, the object being to have them indicate the progress of the world since the birth of the Christ-child.